

Title 10 Salvations and Takin it to the Streets with Tytus Jones

(February 6, 2024)

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, I just got back from our most well attended college event ever. It was at Purdue University on February 1. We had 1100 people there. In fact, there were so many people there, they had to turn some away. And the reason there were so many people there is because Corey Miller, who is the president of Ratio Christi, lives in that area. And he helped organize the event and did a wonderful job promoting it. You can see the entire event on our YouTube channel. Let me tell you a couple of unique things about this event. And what you can do as a result of an event like this in apologetics.

First of all, what Corey and his team did is they planned this event for several months. In fact, they do an event like this every year at Purdue. For those of you that don't know, Purdue is a very engineering oriented school. A lot of engineers come out of Purdue. They have a significant portion of their student body come from outside the country to actually go there for engineering. In any event, Corey recruited about seven professors to get up prior to my portion of the event, right in the very beginning, and give a very short 30-60 second sort of testimony as to why they were Christians.

And I thought this was very powerful for the students, because students, first of all, if they're Christians, can obviously get discouraged on a college campus because they think all the professors are against them. And many times, they are, at least most of them. And most of the students are against them as well. So, it's very motivating for them to see their professors get up there and publicly say that they follow Jesus. So, I thought that was very powerful. And Corey himself spent a few minutes speaking of how he became a Christian. And then we went into I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist.

Now, I didn't have the normal two hours, due to the fact that they took a little bit of time in the beginning, and we had a hard stop at 9 PM. I wanted to make sure we got questions. And so, I didn't even do all four points of I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist. I only went through does truth exist and does God exist? And then took about, I don't know, 35-40 minutes of questions. And we had a question or two from an atheist. You can see all this on our YouTube channel. But after the event was over, we saw that 167 people took the survey. We put a QR code up on the screen. And this survey was designed by Corey and the folks at Ratio Christi and asked a number of questions.

So, 167 people took the survey, which means about 900 or so did not. More than 900 did not. But out of the 167, we were fairly surprised to learn that about 10 of these folks actually became Christians. They accepted Jesus at this I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist campus event. And I, of course, talked about the Gospel in the section on does God exist, but there was



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no invitation. We went right into questions. And yet, we had 10 people actually become Christians, according to the survey from that event.

So, for those of you that do support what we do, and many of you do. And thank you. Because at the end of the year, you guys really stepped up and helped us establish our budget for 2024, which includes the Kingdom AI Project. We're taking our best stuff, and the best stuff of other apologists, and putting it over the next several years, into the top 30 languages around the world using an AI translation program. And we're going to need your help to do that. So, thank you for doing that. And your donations also go to events like this because we don't charge students a dime for these events.

And we have several other college events that I'll tell you about in the ensuing weeks as we get closer to them this semester. Now, some of you want to use your apologetic knowledge to reach people or more people than just to folks you know. In other words, you want to do this in a more structured and professional way. We have a couple of opportunities if that's you. Number one, you ought to be enrolled in CIA this year. It's going to be where I live in Charlotte, North Carolina this year. We used to have it in Charlotte all the time, but we spread it around the country. Now we're bringing it back to Charlotte. It's August 1-3, I think it is.

The application process just opened about a month ago. Go to CrossExamined.org. Click on Events. You will see it there. You need to apply if you want to be a part of it. We only take about 60 people. This is an intense three day program where you are going to learn from some of the top apologists out there, including people like Greg Koukl, and Richard Howe, and Alisa Childers, and Natasha Crain, and others. Just go to CrossExamined.org and click on it there. I also want you to consider this though.

Ratio Christi is the group on campus that is bringing apologetics to students. That's really their goal. Ratio Christi means reason for Christ. And I know some of you want to take what you know about apologetics, as I say, and reach more people. This is a golden opportunity for you to do it. If you go to the Ratio Christi website, I think it's RatioChristi.org or .com. Whatever it is, you'll find it if you Google it. And up in the right hand corner of the website, click on Join. I think that's the word. In fact, I'll look it up right now just to be sure.

If you go there, you can actually become a part of the team either in a volunteer way, or you can actually go there and raise your own support to be a campus minister, somebody who is on campus helping young people know the truth of Christianity. It's RatioChristi.org. Click on Join and follow the cues. You can do it in a volunteer way where you still have your own tent making job. Or if you want to eventually transition into becoming a full-time campus minister, this is the place to do it. And of course, you can take several years to transition. You can raise support as you're doing your tent making job. And then one day, you can be a person who's leading young people to the truth of Christianity and rescuing people in a very dark environment, the college campus, to the truth. You can rescue them to the truth. So, you really want to consider doing this.

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And I had Corey on the program a few months ago. Corey was a fourth generation Mormon. Of course, he's not anymore as the leader of Ratio Christi. And I'm going to have him on again in the future because he has a new book coming out. And think about this, ladies and gentlemen, if you want to affect the culture, you need to affect the university. As Lincoln said, of course, many many years ago, he said the philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next. That's true. We can also modify that to say, the philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of the culture in the next. If you really want to get to the root of why our culture is running from Christ rather than toward Christ. It's the college campus.

And you can be a part of turning that around. So, go to RatioChristi.org and click on Join. Also, there's some opportunities that we have coming up that you might want to be a part of. If you're anywhere near Dayton, Ohio February 16 and 17th, we're going to do Fearless Faith. That's going to be myself, Greg Koukl, Alisa Childers, Jorge Gil, Phoenix Hayes, John Ferrer. We're going to be talking about some of the hot taboo cultural issues and how you can address them in a confident way. Go to DaytonApologetics.com if you want to be a part of that. And then just a few days later, I'll be down in Fayetteville, Georgia, not far from where my buddy Jorge lives. And we're going to be at Flat Creek Church doing Correct, Not Politically Correct. That's just south of Atlanta on February 20. Go to our website for more.

Then a few days after that, going all the way out to Vancouver, actually Chilliwack British Columbia, for all day, Saturday, February 24th, I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist. Sunday, we're going to do at the services, 'Does Love Require Approval?' All the details are on our website. Then down in Sarasota, Florida, the great chip Bennett (he's a pastor down at Grace Community Church in Sarasota). He's putting on what he's calling ApologeticCon. Go to ApologeticCon.com. That's March 4 -6. I'll be there as well as Alisa Childers, Chip Bennett, John McCray, Braxton Hunter, David Wood, Michael Jones, and Vocab Malone will all be down there for ApologeticCon. Hope you can join us if you're anywhere near Sarasota, Florida. That's going to be a great time.

And then March 9, the Unshaken conference. Me, Alisa Childers, Natasha Crain, up near Detroit, Michigan. Go to UnshakenConference.com to get tickets to that. That's going to be a blast. And right now, this is the last weekend you can probably be a part of the live, or I should say, the premium version of 'Conversations with the Faiths', run by Dr. Brady Blevins. That's our new online course that will show you how to reach out to Mormons, to Jehovah's Witnesses, and to Muslims. The class has started, but the first Zoom isn't until next week, so you can still join it. Go to CrossExamined.org. Click on Online Courses.

In other words, we've got a lot going on, ladies and gentlemen, and a lot of opportunities for you. We need to step up if we're going to try and love our neighbor with the truth of Jesus. And that means you need to get equipped. We need to equip others. We need to go out there and do what we do. So, these are the opportunities we have coming up. So, please be a part of many of the things we mentioned here.

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And what we're going to talk about on this podcast, actually, is urban apologetics and the Hebrew Israelites by two folks on our team, Phoenix Hayes and Tytus Jones. In fact, Tytus Jones has her own YouTube channel called Miss Tytus Jones. You can check it out. So, they're going to take the conversation from here. Here's Phoenix and Ty. Here we go.

PHOENIX:

Hi, you're listening to the midweek episode of I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist. I am Phoenix Hayes, and I am sitting down with my guest, Ty. We have some interesting things to discuss because Ty works both with us at CrossExamined. She's a wonderful asset to our team. We love having her here. But in addition, in her spare time, she creates a lot of fantastic content online. And she's got a unique audience that the CrossExamined team hasn't typically had much opportunity to reach. So, that's why I'm so excited to bring her on here. So, welcome Ty. Tell us a little bit about what your passion points are and who your audience is.

TYTUS:

Sure. Thank you. I'm so excited to even be here. My YouTube channel is called Miss Tytus. So, that's my online name. But I focus more on urban apologetics, specifically certain cult groups like the Hebrew Israelites. I have also talked about Freemasonry and fraternal groups on HBCU's. I know that's probably a strange topic for a lot of people. But Hebrew Israelites has kind of been my entry point into apologetics, so I talk about that pretty consistently.

PHOENIX:

Okay, and I obviously, follow you online because we're buds. And it's so interesting reading the comments that you get back on your content. So, first off, I know that as a woman, that already is a trigger point when it comes to speaking out vocally on the matter of Hebrew Israelites. Why is that? And what kind of pushback and things do you see in the comments?

TYTUS:

It's horrible. First of all, that particular religion is very misogynistic. So, they kind of already don't put a lot of value on women, especially women who tell them that they're wrong.

PHOENIX:

Whoa! No, no, yeah. [Laughter]

TYTUS:

So, you know, they're quick to bring up those Pauline passages about women being silent and how this is why the Bible says that women shouldn't teach. So, I get that all the time. It's frustrating, but I'm used to it.

PHOENIX:

Got it. Yeah, that's good. I mean, honestly, this kind of pushback is in a way, great because it really does make you educate yourself and get ready to defend well, am I doing the right thing? Am I speaking against a biblical requirement and things like that? So, I know that those

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passages have caused me to do a deeper dive on women and their role of ministry. But for our listeners who have never heard of a Hebrew Israelite, because to me, I'm thinking back to Sunday school. Hebrew Israelite, they're the same thing, right? The Israelites were Hebrews. So, what is this unique group? Tell us all about it, please.

TYTUS:

Sure. So, the Hebrew Israelites are, for the most part, African Americans who believe that they are the biblical descendants of the Hebrews in the Bible. And they use Deuteronomy 28 as a proof text or a DNA test by comparing the parallels of the transatlantic slave trade to what happened in Deuteronomy 28 with all the curses. You'll be blessed if you do this. But if you don't do this, you'll be cursed in the city. You'll be cursed in the field. And so, they use those parallels. But basically, it goes back to law keeping. So, you have a group of African Americans, and it's not just in America. There's other people groups all over the world now who are claiming this same type of theology.

PHOENIX:

And what holds them together is that they're ethnically descendants from Africa? Am I ever going to come across someone who looks white, for example?

TYTUS:

Actually, depending on which group. So, Hebrew Israelite is an umbrella term. It can be kind of hard to determine what each specific person believes because you have your more radical type. You'll see them in downtown city areas, yelling at people, especially white people. You might see them telling white people to kiss their boots. And some people have actually done it. It's crazy, but those videos are out there. So, those types will say only Hebrews could be saved. But you might see a white person in those camps. That's what they call those groups. They call them camps. So, they really determine it by who is your father? So, if your father is African American, or pretty much anybody in your family is African American or Hebrew, then you are a part of the Hebrew descendants.

PHOENIX:

Okay, so really, they just want to know, what's your DNA? Okay, yeah. It's not a group you can join so there's really no point in evangelizing unless you're talking to other people who can trace their DNA back to Africa.

TYTUS:

Yeah. So, even if you look white, but if you say, well, my great, great, great, great grandfather was a slave then okay. We can accept you too.

PHOENIX:

The blessing or the anointment hasn't been watered down.

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TYTUS:

Correct. [Laughter]

PHOENIX:

All right. I'm just understanding the laws of biology here.

TYTUS:

It's not very consistent. So, those are the ones on the street corners. But then you have those who try to mix Hebrew Israelism with Christianity. And they'll say, well, everyone can be saved if you affirm that we are the true Hebrew Israelites. So, even if you are not one, you just have to accept that we are.

PHOENIX:

So, they understand that whole concept of being grafted in.

TYTUS:

Yes.

PHOENIX:

The difference is, you're not being grafted into the people currently dwelling in Israel. And of course, they're not all living there. They're global, but I get it. You can be grafted into the black Hebrew Israelite community, okay.

TYTUS:

And you have to keep the law.

PHOENIX:

Okay, so now we're not really being grafted in, in terms of Christianity. You're being grafted into an old Judaic religion. So, how does that match up with those that merge it with Christianity? It's like they're borrowing the New Testament idea of being grafted in but still want the old law.

TYTUS:

Yeah. So, it's like they want to have grace and the law, which a lot of cults do that. They'll try to use grace when it's convenient. Because when you look at 613 laws, you have to recognize, I am not keeping all of these. I'm not going to Jerusalem three times a year.

PHOENIX:

Where there's currently no temple. Minor detail.

TYTUS:

Right? And a lot of it doesn't make sense because they have what's called the 12 Tribes Chart. So, I can't remember where it originated. But there's this belief that okay, African Americans come from the tribe of Judah and Haitians are the Levites. And I forget where everybody else

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falls. But I'm like, okay, if you're keeping the law and you need the Haitians to be the priests, how are you...?

PHOENIX:

How does that work?

TYTUS:

It doesn't work.

PHOENIX:

All your priests are on an island.

TYTUS:

Exactly! So, it's not consistent at all.

PHOENIX:

All right. And as an apologist, that can be infuriating. Right. Okay. Tell me what is it that drew you to this particular group? Because, I mean, you and I both know Monique Duseon. She speaks a lot about the critical race theory that's being fed to our African American community. And then there are others that are just very Pentecostal. They've got the heart, and they got the passion, but they're lacking the roots and the knowledge. So, there's lots of areas that someone that is going to potentially be more accepted. So, for those who can't see the video, Ty is an African American woman. She's a beautiful woman, actually. And she's single. [Laughter] And naturally, so that gives her an advantage with reaching certain people. So, what was it that drew you into the Hebrew Israelite community?

TYTUS:

Interesting story. So, I was going to this church several years ago. Which in hindsight, now I feel like wasn't really a very biblically sound church. That's another whole story. But a friend of mine that used to go to that same church, basically tried to proselytize me after they had become a member of the Hebrew Israelite movement. Okay and so we started having debates.

PHOENIX:

Tell our listeners what proselytize means.

TYTUS:

They were trying to get me to convert to Hebrew Israelism. And so, at first, I thought it was this person genuinely asking me questions about the faith. Because I've always been very vocal about my faith online. But in hindsight, now, I realize they were kind of fishing to kind of see like, okay. What do you know about the Bible? What do you really believe?

PHOENIX:

Were they using tactics on you?

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TYTUS:

They were using Hebrew Israelite tactics on me, Phoenix. That's exactly what they were doing.

PHOENIX:

It takes a tactitioner to recognize a tactitioner.

TYTUS:

Yeah. And we would both get frustrated because I know there were times where I'm like, okay, you have to admit that I made a good point here. But then there were other times where I had to look at myself and say, I don't think I have this right. I don't have an answer to this question. So, that really kind of pushed me into apologetics.

PHOENIX:

Wow. Okay. This was the religion that launched you into apologetics.

TYTUS:

Yeah. Because prior to that, I had a word of faith background. A lot of people who meant well taught me some truths in the Bible and also taught me some unbiblical things.

PHOENIX:

I get it. I'm there too.

TYTUS:

Yeah. So, I realized how I look at the Bible was kind of jacked up a little bit and I've got to fix that. So, I'm grateful for it. I learned a lot about that particular belief system because of that. But that's ultimately how I got into apologetics and how I learned about Hebrew Israelism.

PHOENIX:

Okay. What I also find interesting about this is you talk about urban apologetics. So, how is Hebrew Israelites tied to urban apologetics? And actually, let's back up a bit. What is urban apologetics and how does that look different from just apologetics?

TYTUS:

Sure, yeah. Urban apologetics deals with inner city cults or inner city issues. So, Hebrew Israelites, again, they're on street corners yelling at people. But there's a lot of different issues that are going on in our urban cities. People have questions on social justice, people have questions about like, the black community and how Christianity. Does this worldview, does this religion have anything for me? Because all I see is it as a white man's religion. So, I don't want to be a Christian because that's for white people. Jesus was white. So, you're answering those types of questions. And a lot of African Americans are getting to African spirituality, and Egyptology, and all different types of things. So, when you're talking about urban apologetics, a lot of times it's those types of issues.

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PHOENIX:

Wow. Okay. So, it's just fascinating to me. It's not my world. I am the white woman living out in the suburbs that loves apologetics. I'm dealing with white people who think they're too smart. And they're atheist, or they've figured out a brand of Christianity that works perfectly for them. So, this is so refreshing and interesting to hear.

TYTUS:

I'm glad you said that, because you did ask for the difference between urban apologetics and classical apologetics. Classical is more so like, you know, proving to people that God exists. But what we're finding is that millennials, that's my age group, millennials and younger aren't really asking if God exists, at least in the black community. We're asking different questions like, is that God the one that exists? Because maybe the black woman is God. Maybe the black man is God. So, the supernatural thing they really don't have an issue with. A lot of people are finding their identity on the continent of Africa, even though the Hebrew Israelites are finding it in Israel. But it's like, well, if my ancestors followed this religion, then that's the true religion.

PHOENIX:

And that's so interesting, because of course, there's years and years of a precious people group that feel disconnected from those roots. And so, that's so interesting that they're looking back to see what they lost. When really, I mean, those are the places that we were sending white missionaries to try and help. These different spiritual practices seem to be very closely linked to searching for identity and roots again after having those taken from them. Wow. So, you mentioned that Hebrew Israelites, they're particularly found in urban centers. Would you say that they've got a particular target demographic they're going after? Like, who are they having the most success with when it comes to recruiting or proselytizing?

TYTUS:

It's very attractive to young black men, really just black men in general, specifically those who come out of churches that probably didn't really have really good doctrine. So, a lot of them, they have a hunger and a thirst for the Bible and this masculinity. Because you know, a lot of churches do kind of...

PHOENIX:

Soften it right down.

TYTUS:

Yeah. Most churches are mostly women. So, I think having a tribe, so to speak.

PHOENIX:

It's strong men who have also recaptured, well, they think they've recaptured an identity.

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TYTUS:

Yeah, and seeing a church that's not just about encouragement all the time, and inspirational speeches all the time. Like, what does the Bible actually say? So, I think some of the things that they want are good, but they're using a false religion to scratch that itch, so to speak. Yeah.

PHOENIX:

So, you mentioned Deuteronomy, and the fact that there's talk about curses on the chosen people. And so, they use that as therefore, Transatlantic slave, because apparently, they're the only people who have ever been put through slavery.

TYTUS:

They would acknowledge other people have been through slavery, but no one has had it as bad as the transatlantic slaves. Which I mean, it's awful.

PHOENIX:

Of course.

TYTUS:

No one's saying it wasn't awful. Horrible and awful, awful and horrible.

PHOENIX:

But by what bar are they measuring slavery globally through the history of humanity to compare?

TYTUS:

That's a good question. And they really belittle what has happened to the Jews. I mean, obviously in present day. I don't think I've really ever heard them address the Holocaust. It's like, oh, yeah, but the transatlantic slave trade. That's what we need to be remembering.

PHOENIX:

That was the biggest crime.

TYTUS:

Yes.

PHOENIX:

Which is interestingly, still fairly recent. I know people don't think it's recent, but it's recent. That's interesting that you mentioned the Jewish people. What is the general attitude among the Hebrew Israelites toward the Jewish people?

TYTUS:

I would say antisemitic. They believe that the Jews stole their identity. So, all the things that we should have, we don't have it because they took it from us.

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PHOENIX:

So, then I suppose. And you're not the one that has to defend this. But my question would be, and maybe you've asked them, if God bestowed the blessing, how does man steal it?

TYTUS:

Oh, that's a good question. But their whole identity is based on the fact that they're cursed. So, it's like a blessing and a curse.

PHOENIX:

Okay, so that would make the Israelite people as stealing the props of being "chosen people." But because they're not as cursed, whatever that means, as the African community.

TYTUS:

Yeah like, we've had it worse than everybody. It doesn't really make sense because they really ignore a lot of sound theology. They don't believe in the Trinity. They hate the Trinity, which most cults do, of course. Jesus to them really doesn't even, He's like a means to an end.

PHOENIX:

Who is Jesus to them?

TYTUS:

Jesus to them is the Messiah, a lot of them will say. And again, this depends on which type of Hebrew Israelite you're talking about. Some would say, I think that He's the savior and all that. But if we're talking about radical, One West Hebrew Israelism, Jesus is just the one who's going to lead us in destroying white people in the kingdom and making them our servants.

PHOENIX:

Okay, so you've got a contradiction of I don't like classical Christianity as its presented by white America because it's the white man's religion. But now the Messiah, (who's not white?) is going to save them and defeat the white man?

TYTUS:

Revelation 1 shows that he's black, Phoenix.

PHOENIX:

Revelation 1, tell me more.

TYTUS:

He's got feet of bronze. His hair is like wool. So, they totally misread Revelation 1 as a proof text that Jesus is black. So yeah, the Messiah is definitely black to them. And they don't like the name Jesus.

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PHOENIX:

Okay, what would they call Him?

TYTUS:

It depends. Some would say Yahawashi. Some would say Yahushua. And they even have like their own language - lashawan qadash.

PHOENIX:

Oh, my goodness. This sounds like Dr. Zeus.

TYTUS:

Lashawan qadash. I've actually seen a video of two Hebrew Israelites getting pulled over in a police car. And they start speaking lashawan qadash, I guess as a way to pray that this doesn't end bad. And it was a very bad traffic stop. But yeah. They've got their own language.

PHOENIX:

Where does that, is it like derived from ancient Hebrew?

TYTUS:

I don't remember. I would have to do some research on the origins of that. But yeah,

PHOENIX:

You're my go to expert. You are the voice of all Hebrew Israelites.

TYTUS:

Oh no, I have to give credit to where it's due. Because there's a lot of people who've been researching Hebrew Isrealism and know way more about it than I do. But Vocab Malone, I think, was one of the first ones to write a book on it. So, if anyone wants to know more about it, that's a great place to start.

PHOENIX:

Can you remember the name of the book?

TYTUS:

It's called Barack Obama versus the Black Hebrew Israelites.

PHOENIX:

Okay, we'll make sure that these are linked in the description of the podcast. Can you recommend any others? It doesn't even have to be specifically about the Hebrew Israelites? But that's just been a great resource to you?

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TYTUS:

Yeah. For urban apologetics, there's actually a book that's called 'Urban Apologetics.' It was edited by Dr. Eric Mason. And there's a chapter in there on Hebrew Israelism, the Nation of Islam, atheism in the black community, African spirituality, Kemeticism. All these things that if you're an African American, you probably are talking to your friends about these types of things.

PHOENIX:

Oh, my goodness, I want more of this content. I want more of this information. Because Ty and I actually attend the same church. And it's a church that's being very intentional about being diverse in the sense that it's not simply a white church that invites black people to attend. We want it to be God's Church, where everybody, regardless of your color, your culture, your background, feels at home there. And that's been a very interesting process. As honestly, as the white people, I'm one of the white people there, obviously think they're doing this great job to accommodate and make people feel welcome, and to actually just shut up and listen for a little bit and find out oh, actually, no.

There's a couple of things we're not hitting that a black person might be more used to seeing in a church setting. And that's been so valuable. But I say all that because, of course, our church is also very vocal on apologetics. At one of our home groups, one of my black sisters says, well, I don't know much about apologetics because I'm black. And I remember looking at her thinking, I don't understand the connection. Why because you're black? I get that lots of people haven't heard about apologetics. Why do you think she would say something like that?

TYTUS:

I don't know why she would say that. Because really, urban apologetics over the last few years to me, just seems like it's kind of, people realize that we can't just rely on the Bible says this, the Bible says that, even though the Bible is true. I believe in inerrancy. But there's so many conversations you have to have before you can even get to someone acknowledging that the Bible is a book that we can see truth in.

PHOENIX:

Yeah, for those who couldn't pick up on this, we're not presuppositionalists.

TYTUS:

And so, it's amazing because if you look at the black church, African Americans are the most religious. We're the most Protestant. We love the Church. We love Christianity.

PHOENIX:

And the worship that you see. Even when slavery was active, and the community built around that. It's just so rich and beautiful.

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TYTUS:

Yeah, black church history is amazing. I've been reading a couple of books on that. But we're just having to battle things I don't think we have always had to prepare for. And so, now that people are starting to wake up like, oh. The prosperity gospel, it doesn't really quite work, does it? If I give all my money away, I'm still broke, and the pastor still has all the money. I don't think that's actually the truth. What's the truth?

So now that you have this exodus of black men who are yelling at you on the side of the street, and you're having to really go back and learn, okay, what does my Bible say? But again, this is not just a black church problem. This is just a church problem. So, a lot of us are realizing we have to have answers to these questions. I think it's Jerome Gaye, I hear him say this all the time. He says, we have to have fact based answers to fact based questions, not faith based answers to fact based questions. I think that's a really good way to look at it.

PHOENIX:

That's good. So, besides Dr. Frank Turek, who are you listening to? Because I feel like every time I talk to you, you're just consuming some new, you're just absorbing everything right now. So, for people who want to dig in a little bit deeper to this and where you are getting fed. Can you share any of those?

TYTUS:

I'm such a dork. Okay, so I love...RIP Dr. Michael Heiser. 'Unseen Realm' was like pivotal in me getting into apologetics. But honestly, 'I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist.'

PHOENIX:

It's a good one. We'll give it credit. [Laughter]

TYTUS:

I have to. I feel like I learned the rules of logic. I promise. I'm saying this because it was one of the first apologetics books that I read. And I was just like, oh, man. This makes so much sense. This is common sense. Why didn't I learn this? So, Michael Heiser, Frank Turek, Greg Koukl. Again, that 'Urban Apologetics' book is amazing.

PHOENIX:

Who is the author again?

TYTUS:

Eric Mason is the main editor. But there are some hard hitters on there. Damon Richardson, he used to be in the Nation of Islam. He was pro NOI to the tee but was radically saved. But he had a journey from oneness Pentecostalism. He was oneness. So, he did not believe in the Trinity even after converting into his that version of Christianity. But now he's like a radical Trinitarian too. So, to go from NOI to that, his chapter on NOI is amazing. So, Eric Mason wrote the chapter on the Hebrew Israelites. Vince Bantu, his chapter on Kemeticism, which is the

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Egyptology type stuff. That's super important because for the last few years, there's been different channels that really hyped up, you know, the black man is God, the black woman is God, and all that kind of stuff.

PHOENIX:

And a lot of our celebrities are endorsing this kind of idea, too, right?

TYTUS:

Oh, yeah. Beyonce. So yeah, the CIA. I'm going to just drop that one. The CIA conference where you can learn how to present better. Up your presentation skills.

PHOENIX:

Which is going to be held in Charlotte next summer, 2024. So, keep your ears out for that.

TYTUS:

Yeah, I've now been a student of that twice and it's so helpful. This past CIA, I did a presentation on urban apologetics and why it's needed. And I just talked a little bit about Beyonce and how she's kind of using her music to promote African spirituality.

PHOENIX:

That sounds so generic. Does that have a specific meaning? Or is that as vague as it sounds? African spirituality.

TYTUS:

What's really becoming very popular is the Yoruba religion, or Ifa. And I'm still learning about this as well. I don't want to present myself as like an expert. But this idea of the Orishas. So, they have their own pantheon of gods. And so, Beyonce has, I want to say it's Yemaya is one of the African gods of the Yoruba tradition. But it's witchcraft.

PHOENIX:

Okay, let's just call it what is.

TYTUS:

And they would say that. There's a witch on YouTube. I've been watching some of her videos just to kind of get an idea of the worldview. But they blatantly are pro witchcraft now.

PHOENIX:

And what does that mean to them? Is it tapping into Satanism? Or is it more tapping into just your own internal power? What does that mean to them?

TYTUS:

It's kind of like a buffet. I'll take a little piece of this, little piece of that. So, chakras and setting up altars. Sarita Lyons writes about this in the 'Urban Apologetics' book because she was caught

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up in that in college. She would take food to the ocean to sacrifice like, a bread cake or something like that to her deity. So yeah, it's ancestor worship and witchcraft.

PHOENIX:

Wow, that's so interesting. Ty, this has been such an interesting conversation. Thanks so much for joining us. For those of you who are listening, this is the I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist midweek podcast. Check out the links in the description. We're going to give as many resources as possible if you're interested in learning more about this area of apologetics that is really underserved. I'm excited to shine a light on it, shine a light on Ty. You'll see her social media links in the description too. Follow her and just support her, encourage her because honestly, she's out there alone a lot speaking to a community that do not care what I have to say. So, you know, God puts us where He needs us, and we want to support her. So, thanks so much, Ty.

TYTUS:

Thanks for having me.

PHOENIX:

All right, guys. We'll talk to you next week.

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